

Extending the AVP community: the AVP Circles Framework Model

AVP like all training programs, is evolving. The Education Committee has started to collect the wisdom and experience of AVP facilitators. The next generation of manuals will include the changes that will not change the essence of AVP workshops.

Two of these changes are:

1. The increased number of Advanced workshop topics.
2. The growth of workshops based on the AVP experiential learning methodology outside the traditional or 'standard' three workshops (basic, advanced and training for facilitators).

AVP USA has developed a framework model to describe the expanded AVP community.

The inner circle is the essence of the AVP learning methodology that all of AVP workshops and activities are based on.

The second circle are the three 'standard' workshops that are facilitated by a team of AVP trained facilitators, within a recognised AVP group, are 18-22 in length and based on the AVP manuals.

The third circle are AVP Variations that are facilitated by a team of AVP trained facilitators, within a recognised AVP group, are any length, on any topic and are in part based on the AVP manuals. These workshop are developed by the local AVP group and may be: Support standard AVP workshops as facilitators' continuing learning, tasters and support groups.

Stand-alone workshops.

The fourth circle are AVP informed or 'spin-off' training programs that have been developed by AVP facilitators, based on AVP experiential learning methodology, but are conducted by training organizations outside AVP. These workshops can be on any topic, of any length and the facilitators are often paid to facilitate these workshops. AVP USA is working with a number of these groups to develop mutually beneficial associations with AVP. The fifth circle are AVP influenced training programs that use some parts of the AVP experiential learning methodology and content.

AVP facilitators from all the second, third and fourth circles can learn from the topic material used in the other areas of the AVP community. So this material is being collected by the Education Committee and will be used in the development of the new Advanced topic workshops.

One of the strengths of AVP is that all material in the AVP USA manuals has been tried and tested in the crucible of a prison workshop. Prison workshops are real and practical, not theoretical or preaching. All material in the manuals has been piloted in prison workshops. The new Liaison with Inside Facilitators Team will arrange for all the potential material for the next Advanced manual will be piloted by AVP inside facilitators, and their feedback about what works and what does not work to inform the development of the next Advanced Manual.

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